

1Jn 10 - **Disciples Have Assurance - 1Jn 3:19-24**

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Let's Pray

1Jn is about **ASSURANCE**

It's about **GIVING** us Assurance
NOT taking our Assurance away

It's about giving us **Real Tangible Assurance**
& it's about **REMOVING** any **False Assurance** we may have

But what 1John is **NOT** about - is "**HOW TO BE SAVED**"

We Have **tons of Msg's** at Word By Mail about HOW to be Saved
The **Gospel of John, Romans, Galatians**, etc

& we know - & we **try to teach** very clearly - Salvation is
BY God's Grace Alone & **THRU Our Faith Alone**

We can Never **EARN** or **DESERVE** our Salvation

So pls hear me - & pls tell someone who's not here
1John is **NOT about** what we have to do to **BE Saved**
It's **about HOW** we can know we **ARE Saved**

Salvation comes **BY** God's Grace & **THRU** Your Faith - **ALONE**
Get our Galatians & Romans series for that

But if you have truly **put your Faith** in Jesus Christ
& if you are truly **following Him** as LORD

It will **SHOW** . . . & **THAT** is what 1John is about

1 John is dealing with what it should look like
AFTER we've given our lives to Jesus Christ as our LORD

& it is SO appropriate - Because (maybe) in our emphasis
on Salvation By Grace & Thru Faith alone

maybe we've forgotten to make it clear
that True Faith in Christ "WILL actually CHANGE your life too"

So - We DON'T want to imply
there is something you have to DO to be saved

But we don't want you to think you're OK with God
IF you just went thru the motions of salvation
but NOTHING ever changed in your life

BOTTOM LINE - *True faith is not a passive acknowledgment of the gospel; True faith is an active response to the gospel*

True faith shows itself - in HOW we live !

& God HAS Given us Absolute Assurance of our Salvation
that comes THRU our Faith ALONE

But the question is
How do we know His Absolute Assurance - applies to US

Listen to these vs's of incredible assurance
from ROM Ch 8 - from the NLT

Rom 8:29-37 - NLT → →

Rom 8:29-37 - NLT

29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, . . .

30 And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

31 What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?

32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself.

34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us . . .

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? . . .

36 . . .

37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

There are Powerful **Vs's of Assurance** like these **ALL THRU** the NT

BUT (again) - the question is - **HOW** can we be assured that these **Great Promises** - Apply to **US**, personally ??

The only way for us to really **know** that this Guaranteed **Assurance** of Salvation applies to **US**

is for us to **look** - at our **ACTIONS** (the **FRUIT**) of our lives

Guys - 1John is simply exhorting us to **MAKE SURE** that our **Faith** is **BEARING FRUIT** in our lives

Which is **the same thing** we see thru-out the N.T. - - & the same thing **Jesus Himself** said in **Mat Ch 7**

In Mat 7 Jesus is talking about how to know
if someone was from God, or NOT

& He says in Mat 7:15-21 - NLT

15 “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves.

16 You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

17 A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit.

18 A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit.

19 So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire.

20 Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

21 “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.

Our Actions IDENTIFY who we are

& so our Actions are what give us Real, True Assurance
of our Salvation in Christ

& so if you would say - *well . . . I see one little itty-bitty fruit hanging on the tree of my life*

I'd say *well, Praise the Lord*, that's a good sign

But - AS we continue to ABIDE in Christ (see John 15) . . .

We should be seeing More & More fruit growing, right?

As we've said a dozen times in this study

the question is NOT Are we PERFECTLY bearing Fruit
BUT are we INCREASINGLY bearing Fruit?

Amen ?

Alright - Let's get to it !

This can be a somewhat difficult passage at first reading
but the focus - the M.I.P. here - is the Assurance of our Salvation

Six Points of Assurance in Six Vs's

- 1) True "love in action" Assures us - v.19
- 2) God's true knowledge of us Assures us - v.20
- 3) A cleansed conscious Assures us - v.21
- 4) Obedience Assures us - v.22
- 5) Faith with love Assures us - v.23
- 6) The Holy Spirit in our lives Assures us - v.24

These are the practical evidences in our lives
that give us solid assurance of our Salvation

AND (as always in 1John) - the implication here is
if these things are NOT evident in our lives

then we should definitely & immediately DO SOMETHING about it

But (again) John's overriding goal here
is to GIVE US True Assurance

that we are "Walking in the Light" & that we are "Of the Truth"

In our last message John had made it clear that **Loving One Another** was an absolute requirement for the Christian Life

& in **the last vs** of that msg (v.18) John said **this requirement** to Love One Another is NOT "**Love in TALKING**" - but "**Love in WALKING**"

& today - he's going to **TIE** that command from the last message to our **First Assurance** in today's message

Assurance #1) True "Love in Action" Assures us

Repeating **v.18** from last week - **leading into** our 1st Assurance

1Jn 3:18-19 - ESV

18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him;

If we are **Loving One Another** - as Jesus commanded us to

then we can KNOW ***that we are of the truth***

& ***we can reassure our hearts before God*** (Praise the Lord)

When we are **Loving** with a Love that is **NOT our own**

We can **KNOW** that **GOD'S SPIRIT** is living in us (**Rom 5:5**)

& (again) we can **KNOW** that we are - ***of the truth*** -

& we can ***reassure our hearts before God*** (as v.19 says)

So - **LOOK** for the Love of God in your life - & when you see it ***reassure your heart*** - that Jesus Christ lives in you

So our **FIRST Assurance** is - *True "Love in Action" Assures us*

& then - **V.20** continues the thought from **V.19**
& gives us our 2nd Assurance

Assurance #2) God's true knowledge of us Assures us

1Jn 3:19-20 - ESV

v.19 (again) By this (loving one another) we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him;
20 for whenever (if) our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

V.20 is written to give us Assurance when we doubt ourselves,

Which is something we all do
& so **THIS** is an Assurance we **REALLY** need

The flow of thought is like this;

- 1) by examining our **ACTIONS** (especially Love)
we can **KNOW** that we are "of the truth"
& we can **REASSURE** our heart before God (in His presence)
- 2) & then - **when our own heart** (conscience) **condemns** us - -
when the **enemy** starts throwing those **fiery darts** - accusing us
(Rev 12:10 - he accuses us day & night)

& even when our **own conscience** starts saying
"hey, you're NOT saved, God's not going to forgive YOU"

If we have **EVIDENCE** in our life
that we've been **Transformed** (Born Again) by our Faith in Christ

Then we can say to our own deceitful conscience - **BACK OFF**

God knows everything about me

He has completely **FORGIVEN** me

He has **TRANSFORMED** me

He has **ADOPTED** me as His child - &

HE is **GREATER** than my own "self-doubting" conscience !!

If there's **TANGIBLE EVIDENCE** in your life of the Lordship of Christ
THEN - when your own heart (conscience) **condemns** you

you can stand firm on WHO God is

on how **COMPLETELY** He knows you -

& on How much **GREATER** He is than your own *deceitful doubts*

AMEN?

& then **next** - John gives us **the great place** of Assurance
that **each of us** must constantly be **returning** to

Assurance #3) A cleansed conscious Assures us

1Jn 3:21 - ESV

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

Man, **that's where** we need to be - isn't it?

a heart (conscience) that **DOES NOT** condemn us

BUT does that mean we have to be **SINLESS**

for our heart to not condemn us?? - - ***Of course NOT***

What it means is . . . → →

We Must Be constantly washed - cleansed - forgiven of our sin

Having the Great Confidence that 1Jn 1:9
is totally & absolutely TRUE

1Jn 1:9 - ESV

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The greatest Assurance we can have before God

The greatest Confidence we can have before God

Is the confidence of knowing that we are walking with Jesus Daily
in confession & repentance

& that there is no hidden sin separating us from Him

We're not trying to pull something over on God
thinking (ridiculously) that we could actually hide our sin

But instead - we're walking in total honesty with God
turning away from sin & turning toward God (repentance)

& confessing our sins when we fall
coming to Him for forgiveness & cleansing from our sin

Isa 59:2 says ***our sin SEPARATES us from God***

BUT - How GREAT a confidence can we have

when there is NO separation from God
due to unconfessed or un-dealt-with sin

When we are in THAT place with God
We have the GREATEST Assurance possible

& so - if there IS **unconfessed** or **un-dealt-with** sin separating you from God - **FIX IT !**

Confess that sin - **Repent** of it (turn away)
& be **cleansed** of the **separation** that sin is causing

& **then** - the Holy Spirit will **reassure** you
that you can **walk in Confidence** with God

AND - this Great assurance (talked about in V.21)

is **NOT JUST** Assurance in our **SALVATION**
but it is also - an **Assurance** in our **PRAYERS**

Assurance #4) Obedience Assures us

Vs's 21 & 22 go together - so let's read them together

1Jn 3:21 (again) & 22 - ESV

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

Whoa - now **that's a Vs** that could be easily taken **out of context** & used for

let's say a ***"Prosperity Doctrine"*** - - as in,
I can force God to give me whatever I want

But listen - because we read the **whole Bible**
We know that prayer is **NO MAGIC WAND**

& we know that we **cannot** somehow **FORCE** God's hand to give us anything

That is **NOT** what this is a picture of

But **instead** - there is such an **incredible picture** here of the most **powerful relationship** we can have with Jesus Christ

& it has **nothing to do** with getting whatever we want thru prayer

Look carefully at the **OUR PART** here:

#1 - (v.21) **Our heart does not condemn us**

So were walking with no separation from God because of unconfessed sin

#2 - (v.22) **We keep His commandments**

So we're certainly not walking in any SELF-CENTERED motivation

#3) - (v.22) **We do what pleases Him**

Meaning we are walking in His will

THIS is a picture of the most **wonderful** - **powerful** **incredible relationship** - you & I can **have** with the Lord

When we are **walking** & **praying** in **UNITY** with God
We will be praying **HIS WILL** - as we're led by the Holy Spirit

& **as we do** - we will be **receiving** what we ask for !!

THIS is where we should **ALL DESIRE** to be - Amen?

it's a picture of walking & praying
in total UNITY with the will of God

& that the Greatest Assurance there is !

Now - maybe because John has said
"We keep His commandments" in v.22

He seems to want to clarify
WHICH commandment He's talking about

Assurance #5) Faith with Love Assures us

1Jn 3:23 - ESV

23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

The SINGLE command that John Clarifies is;

Faith in the name of Jesus Christ
AND Love of the brethren

John So ties together the #1 Vertical Command
& the #1 Horizontal Command
that He writes them as ONE command

FIRST HALF - that we believe (put our faith)
in THE NAME of Jesus Christ

"The NAME" of Jesus Christ means that we believe (put our faith)
in the FULL character & nature of all that Jesus Christ IS

& if we have done that . . . → →

then LOVING One Another

will be the **natural outflow** of our faith in Christ

& then **John says** (at the end of **V.23**)

this commandment is - *just as he has commanded us"*

& this **takes us back** to the **Commandment** Jesus gave the disciples

The commandment John already said (**in Ch2**)

is the **OLD** command **AND** the **NEW** command

It's the **Command** Jesus gave at *the last supper* in **John Ch 13**

John 13:34-35 - ESV

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

True FAITH in Jesus Christ - **MUST** bring **LOVE** for one another

Because - **BY THIS** all people will know that we are His disciples

& by our **FAITH** - & by our **LOVE** for One Another

we can have **Great Assurance** of our salvation - - **AMEN?**

& **finally** - John talks about the **assurance** that comes from **US ABIDING** in Him, & **HE ABIDING** in us

AND - he tells us **HOW** we can **KNOW** God is Abiding in US

Assurance #6) The Holy Spirit in our lives Assures us

1Jn 3:24 - ESV

24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this (→) we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Keeping God's commandments is **the WAY**
that we **ABIDE** in God, & God **ABIDES** in us

& we know **these commandments** are **summarized** by;
LOVING God (vertically)
LOVING One Another (Horizontally)

& then **v.24** says - we'll **KNOW** that God is abiding in us
BY the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives

But **HOW** does "**Keeping God's Commandments**"
& the **Presence of the Holy Spirit** in us - **Go Together?**

Because the **Greatest commands**
of Loving God & Loving One Another

CAN NOT be kept - **without** the Holy Spirit
Ruling & **Reigning** in our lives

it is **ONLY** by the **Power** of the Holy Spirit in our lives

that **we CAN** - Love **God Supremely** - &
Love **Others Sacrificially**

& so keeping **THESE Commands** - are actually
the **ultimate evidence** of the Holy Spirit in our lives

& **THAT Evidence** gives us **Absolute Assurance**
that we are **ABIDING** in God - & He is **ABIDING** in US
By the Holy Spirit whom he has given us.

& so - Here is the **Absolute Assurance** of our Salvation

Do we see the **Evidence** of the Holy Spirit
at work in our lives - **enabling us to**;

- # 1) Put our **Full Faith & Trust** in the Name of Jesus Christ
- # 2) **Obey** His Commands
- # 3) **Love One another** as Christ loves us

If we **see these evidences** in our lives
then we can **know 100%** absolutely - for sure

That we have **God's Guaranteed Assurance**
of our **Eternal Salvation**

& **IF** - **while** we are **growing** in these Evidences . . .

if our **wicked & deceitful heart**
ever begins to **condemn us** & cause us to doubt

Then we can **STAND** on **God's WORD**
knowing that **God is greater** than the **doubts** of our own heart

Knowing that He **knows everything**

& **Knowing** - that He has **ASSURED US**
that He will **bring His work** of salvation **in us** - to completion

Let's Pray